

App.) to enhance the Offices of the Inspectors General, to create a Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. **Page S9434**

**Production of Records:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 680, to authorize production of records by the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. **Page S9434**

**Hispanic Heritage Month:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 682, recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating the heritage and culture of Hispanic Americans and their immense contributions to the Nation. **Pages S9434–35**

**National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 683, designating the week of October 19 through October 25, 2008, as “National Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week”. **Page S9435**

**Crisis in Darfur, Sudan:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 684, calling for a comprehensive strategy to address the crisis in Darfur, Sudan. **Page S9435**

**State-based Alcohol Regulation:** Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 551, celebrating 75 years of successful State-based alcohol regulation, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S9436–37**

**National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day:** Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 665, designating October 3, 2008, as “National Alternative Fuel Vehicle Day”, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S9437**

**Messages from the House:** **Page S9410**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S9410–13**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S9415–17**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Pages S9417–26**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S9403–10**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S9426–32**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Pages S9432–33**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S9433**

**Recess:** Senate convened at 9:30 a.m. and recessed at 8:56 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 25, 2008. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S9437.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### NOMINATION

**Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:** Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Mark Everett Keenum, of Mississippi, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Harkin, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

### AUTOMOBILE TRADE

**Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:** Subcommittee on Interstate Commerce, Trade, and Tourism concluded a hearing to examine the imbalance in United States-Korea automobile trade, after receiving testimony from Robert B. Cassidy, Kelley Drye Warren LLP, John T. Bozzella, Chrysler LLC, Ron Gettelfinger, International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, Charles W. McMillion, MBG Information Services, and Myron Brilliant, United States Chamber of Commerce, on behalf of sundry organizations, all of Washington, D.C.

### NUCLEAR FUEL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND SECURITY

**Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:** Committee concluded a hearing to examine the safety and security of spent nuclear fuel transportation, after receiving testimony from Senators Reid and Ensign; Edward F. Sproat III, Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, Department of Energy; Michael Weber, Director, Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Edward Pritchard, Director, Office of Safety Assurance and Compliance, Federal Railroad Administration, and Ted Willke, Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, both of the Department of Transportation; Sandra Schubert, Environmental Working Group, Kevin D. Crowley, National Academies, and Edward R. Hamberger, Association of American Railroads, all of Washington, D.C.; and James David Ballard, California State University, Northridge, Department of Sociology.

### ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD

**Committee on Environment and Public Works:** Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Bush Administration’s environmental record at the Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), after receiving testimony from Carl Pope, Sierra Club, and Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Defenders of Wildlife, both of Washington, D.C.; Jim Ball, Evangelical Environmental Network, Suwanee, Georgia; and Allen Schaeffer, Diesel Technology Forum, Frederick, Maryland.

### AFRICAN RESOURCES

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on African Affairs concluded a hearing to examine Africa's management of its extractive industries, including the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) which aims to strengthen governance by improving transparency and accountability in the extractives sector by setting a global standard for companies to publish the fees they pay and for governments to disclose the money they receive, after receiving testimony from Todd Moss, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs; Paul Collier, University of Oxford Center for the Study of African Economies, Oxford, United Kingdom; David L. Goldwyn, Goldwyn International Strategies, Washington, D.C.; and Simon Taylor, Global Witness, London, United Kingdom.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of James Franklin Jeffrey, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Turkey, who was introduced by Senator Warner, and Gene Allan Cretz, of New York, to be Ambassador to Libya, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS AND OBLIGATIONS ACT

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine domestic partner benefits for federal employees, including S. 2521, to provide benefits to domestic partners of Federal employees, after receiving testimony from Howard C. Weizmann, Deputy Director, Office of Personnel Management; Yvette C. Burton, IBM Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) and Human Capital Management Segments, New York, New York; Colleen M. Kelley, National Treasury Employees Union, and Sherri Bracey, American Federation of Government Employees (AFL-CIO), both of Washington, D.C.; and Frank A. Hartigan, San Francisco, California.

### PREPAREDNESS PLANNING

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Ad Hoc Subcommittee on State, Local, and Private Sector Preparedness and Integration concluded a hearing to examine the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) future preparedness planning, after receiving testimony from Marko Bourne, Director, Policy and Program Analysis, Fed-

eral Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security; Nancy J. Dragani, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Columbus, on behalf of the National Emergency Management Association; Larry Gispert, Hillsborough County, Tampa, Florida, on behalf of the International Association of Emergency Managers; and Jane Bullock, Bullock and Haddow, Washington, D.C.

### EXTRACTING NATURAL RESOURCES

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law concluded a hearing to examine extracting natural resources in foreign countries, focusing on corporate responsibility and the rule of law relative to human rights issues, after receiving testimony from Jeffrey Krilla, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor; \*Ka Hsaw Wa, EarthRights International, Bennett Freeman, Calvert Group, and Arvind Ganesan, Human Rights Watch, all of Washington, D.C.; and Nnimmo Bassey, Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria, Lagos, Nigeria.

\*Ka Hsaw Wa is a pseudonym used to protect his ability to investigate human rights abuses and to protect his family members still living in Burma.

### VISA WAIVER PROGRAM

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security concluded a hearing to examine the Visa Waiver Program, focusing on actions needed to improve management of the expansion process and to assess and mitigate risks to ensure the safety of all Americans, after receiving testimony from Stewart A. Baker, Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for the Office of Policy Directorate; and Jess T. Ford, Director, International Affairs and Trade, Government Accountability Office.

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine cooperation and collaboration by the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Defense on information technology efforts to accelerate the exchange of health information between the Departments and to develop systems or capabilities that allow for the ability of systems to use data that are exchanged, after receiving testimony from Valerie C. Melvin, Director, Human Capital and Management Information Systems Issues, Government Accountability Office; S. Ward Casscells, Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, and Charles Campbell, Chief Information Officer, Military Health System, both of the Department of Defense; and Michael J. Kussman, Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health, Veterans Health Administration.

**END-OF-LIFE/PALLIATIVE CARE**

*Special Committee on Aging:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine ways to respect Americans' legal and medical care choices at the end of life, after receiving testimony from W.A. Drew Edmondson, Oklahoma Attorney General, Oklahoma City; Joan Curran, Gundersen Lutheran Health System, La-Crosse, Wisconsin; Joseph D. O'Connor, American

Bar Association Commission on Law and Aging, Bloomington, Indiana; Diane E. Meier, Mount Sinai School of Medicine Departments of Geriatrics and Medicine, New York, New York; Joan M. Teno, Brown University Warren Alpert School of Medicine, Providence, Rhode Island; and Patricia A. Bomba, Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, Rochester, New York.

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## House of Representatives

### *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 28 public bills, H.R. 7032–7059; and 12 resolutions, H.J. Res. 99; H. Con. Res. 425–428; and H. Res. 1492–1498, were introduced. **Pages H9423–25**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H9425–26**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3202, to amend the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to extend comparability pay adjustments to members of the Foreign Service assigned to posts abroad, and to amend the provision relating to the death gratuity payable to surviving dependents of Foreign Service employees who die as a result of injuries sustained in the performance of duty abroad, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–877, Pt. 1);

S. 3009, to designate the Federal Bureau of Investigation building under construction in Omaha, Nebraska, as the “J. James Exon Federal Bureau of Investigation Building” (H. Rept. 110–878);

H. Res. 1490, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (H. Rept. 110–879);

H. Res. 1491, providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (H. Rept. 110–880);

H.R. 6849, to amend the commodity provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to permit producers to aggregate base acres and reconstitute farms to avoid the prohibition on receiving direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, or average crop revenue election payments when the sum of the base acres of a farm is 10 acres or less, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–881); and

H.R. 1497, to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to extend its protections to plants illegally harvested outside of the United States, with an amendment (H. Rept. 110–882). **Page H9423**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Pastor to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H9087**

**Moment of Silence:** The House observed a moment of silence in honor of all those who lost their lives in the October 1983 bombing of the United States Marine Corps Barracks in Beirut, Lebanon. **Page H9217**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

*National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009:* S. 3001, amended, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2009 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy and to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 392 yeas to 39 nays, Roll No. 631;

**Pages H9090–H9216, H9231**

*Amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide alternative minimum tax relief for individuals for 2008:* H.R. 7005, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide alternative minimum tax relief for individuals for 2008, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 393 yeas to 30 nays, Roll No. 634;

**Pages H9306–11, H9364–65**

*Amending the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide disaster assistance relief:* H.R. 7006, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide disaster assistance relief, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 419 yeas to 4 nays, Roll No. 635;

**Pages H9312–19, H9365**

*Amending the commodity provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008:* H.R. 6849, amended, to amend the commodity provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to permit producers to aggregate base acres and reconstitute farms to avoid the prohibition on receiving direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, or average